

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A process for reconciling actual data with estimated data within a  
5 workflow process for a project ordered by a buyer and performed by a seller, the  
method comprising:  
obtaining the estimated data;  
receiving the actual data from the seller via a communication network;  
comparing the actual data to the estimated data to determine any discrepancy  
10 between the actual data and the estimated data; and  
notifying the buyer of the any discrepancy, wherein upon notice of the any  
discrepancy the buyer can account for the any discrepancy.
2. A process for reconciling as described in claim 1, wherein the actual  
15 data comprises an actual cost of goods/services provided by the seller in performance  
of the project.
3. A process for reconciling as described in claim 1, wherein the actual  
data comprises an actual accounting of goods/services provided by the seller in  
20 performance of the project.
4. A process for reconciling as described in claim 1, wherein the actual  
data comprises at least one measurement of at least one technical specification  
defining the project.  
25
5. A process for reconciling as described in claim 1, further comprising  
transmitting the actual data to a buyer system via the communication network for  
integration of the actual data into the buyer system.
- 30 6. A process for reconciling as described in claim 5 wherein the buyer  
system comprises back office integration processes.
7. A process for reconciling as described in claim 1, further comprising:  
accepting from the buyer a submission of at least one annotation to the actual

data; and  
annotating the actual data.

8. A process for reconciling as described in claim 7, further comprising  
5 transmitting the at least one annotation to the actual data to the buyer system via the  
communication network for integration into the buyer system.

9. A process for reconciling as described in claim 1, further comprising:  
receiving a final project statement from the seller via the communication  
10 network; and  
comparing the actual data to the final project statement to determine any  
discrepancy between the actual data and the final project statement.

10. A process for reconciling as described in claim 9, wherein the final  
15 project statement comprises an invoice for actual costs of goods/services provided by  
the seller in performance of the project.

11. A process for reconciling as described in claim 1, further comprising  
transmitting the actual data to a seller system via the communication network for  
20 integration of the actual data into the seller system.

12. A process for reconciling as described in claim 11, wherein the seller  
system further comprises back office integration processes.

13. A process for reconciling as described in claim 1, wherein the step of  
25 notifying the buyer further comprises sending a message to a buyer system via the  
communication network.

14. A process for reconciling as described in claim 1, wherein the step of  
30 notifying the buyer further comprises posting an indication of the receiving of the  
actual data on an interface accessible to the buyer from a buyer system via the  
communication network.

15. A process for reconciling as described in claim 1, wherein the workflow process generates at least one request for at least one good/service to be provided by the seller to the buyer for the project, wherein the project is defined in terms of at least one parameter, and wherein the system converts the at least one  
5 parameter into the at least one request, and wherein the system communicates the at least one request to the seller.

15. A process for reconciling as described in claim 1 wherein the actual data comprises at least one measurement of the at least one parameter actually  
10 recorded by the seller in performance of the project.

16. A process for reconciling as described in claim 14 wherein the at least one parameter is selected from the group consisting of: physical, functional, temporal, financial, transactional, and geographical parameters.  
15

17. A process for reconciling as described in claim 1 wherein the communication network is selected from the group consisting of: the Internet, an intranet, a cable network, a telephone network, a wireless network, a voice network, a frame-relay broadband network, a local area network, a wide area network, a public  
20 network, and a private network.

18. A process for reconciling as described in claim 1, wherein the communication network operates over at least one of the transmission mediums selected from the group consisting of: telephony, wireless telephony, digital  
25 subscriber line, two-way cable, fiber optic, radio, point-to-point microwave, and satellite.

19. A process for reconciling as described in claim 1, wherein the step of receiving actual data includes interfacing with a portable seller system via the  
30 communication network to receive the actual data from the seller.

20. A process for reconciling as described in claim 1, wherein the project further comprises one of a type selected from the group consisting of: oil and gas

exploration, construction, manufacturing complex products, and providing specialized services.

22  
~~21.~~ A workflow system for reconciling actual data compiled for a project  
5 by a seller with estimated data for the project, the project ordered by a buyer and  
performed by the seller, the workflow system comprising:  
a first interface for interacting with at least one buyer;  
a second interface for interacting with at least one seller;  
a memory for storing the estimated data and the actual data, wherein the actual  
10 data is received from the seller field device via the second interface; and  
a processor controlling the memory, the first interface and the second  
interface,  
wherein the processor compares the actual data to the estimated data to determine any  
discrepancy between the actual data and the estimated data, and wherein the processor  
15 notifies the buyer via the first interface of the any discrepancy.

23  
~~22.~~ A workflow system for reconciling as described in claim 21, wherein  
the actual data comprises an actual cost of goods/services provided by the seller in  
performance of the project.

22  
~~23.~~ A workflow system for reconciling as described in claim 21, wherein  
the actual data comprises an actual quantity of goods/services provided by the seller  
in performance of the project.

25  
~~24.~~ A workflow system for reconciling as described in claim 21, wherein  
the actual data comprises at least one measurement of at least one technical  
specification defining the project.

26  
25. A workflow system for reconciling as described in claim 21, wherein  
30 the processor further accesses the actual data from the memory and transmits the  
actual data to the buyer via the first interface.

26. A workflow system for reconciling as described in claim 21, wherein the buyer accesses and at least once annotates the actual data through the first interface, and wherein the processor stores the at least one annotation in the memory.

5 27. A workflow system for reconciling as described in claim 26, wherein the processor further transmits the at least one annotation to the buyer via the first interface.

10 28. A workflow system for reconciling as described in claim 21, wherein the processor further stores a final project statement in the memory; wherein the final project statement is received from the seller via the second interface; and wherein the processor compares the actual data to the final project statement to determine any discrepancy between the actual data and the final project statement.

15 29. A workflow system for reconciling as described in claim 28, wherein the final project statement comprises an invoice for actual costs of goods/services provided by the seller in performance of the project.

20 30. A workflow system for reconciling as described in claim 21, wherein the processor further accesses the actual data from the memory and provides the actual data to the seller via the second interface.

25 31. A workflow system for reconciling as described in claim 21, wherein the processor further notifies the buyer by sending a message to the buyer via the first interface.

30 32. A workflow system for reconciling as described in claim 21, wherein the processor further notifies the buyer by posting an indication of the receipt of the actual data on the first interface.

33. A workflow system for reconciling as described in claim 21, wherein the workflow system further comprises a system for implementing a process to generate at least one request for at least one good/service to be provided by the seller to the buyer for the project, wherein the project is defined in terms of at least one

parameter, and wherein the system converts the at least one parameter into the at least one request, and wherein the system communicates the at least one request to the seller.

5           34.     A workflow system for reconciling as described in claim 33, wherein the at least one parameter is selected from the group consisting of: physical, functional, temporal, financial, transactional, and geographical parameters.

10           35.     A workflow system for reconciling as described in claim 21, wherein the processor, first interface, and second interface are connected via a communication network selected from the group consisting of: the Internet, an intranet, a cable network, a telephone network, a wireless network, a voice network, a frame-relay broadband network, a local area network, a wide area network, a public network, and a private network.

15           36.     A workflow system for reconciling as described in claim 35, wherein the communication network operates over at least one of the transmission mediums selected from the group consisting of: telephony, wireless telephony, digital subscriber line, two-way cable, fiber optic, radio, point-to-point microwave, and  
20     satellite.

          37.     A workflow system for reconciling as described in claim 21, wherein the second interface further comprises a portable communication device.

25           38.     A workflow system for reconciling as described in claim 21, wherein the actual data is received from the seller via the second interface, and wherein the seller relays the actual data through a seller system connected with the second interface via a communication network.

30           39.     A workflow system for reconciling as described in claim 21, wherein the project further comprises one of a type selected from the group consisting of: oil and gas exploration, construction, manufacturing complex products, and providing specialized services.

41  
40. A process in a workflow system for presenting the reconciliation of actual data compiled by a seller with estimated data projected for a project, the actual data received at the workflow system from a seller via a communication network, the process comprising:

5 comparing the actual data to the estimated data to determine any discrepancy between the actual data and the estimated data; and

presenting an interface comprising the any discrepancy, the interface accessible by the buyer via the communication network connecting the workflow system to a buyer system.

10

41. A process in a workflow system for presenting as described in claim 40, wherein the interface further comprises a presentation of the actual data compiled by the seller.

15

42. A process in a workflow system for presenting as described in claim 40, wherein the interface further comprises a presentation of the estimated data.

20

43. A process in a workflow system for presenting as described in claim 40, wherein the actual data comprises an actual cost of goods/services provided by the seller in performance of the project.

25

44. A process in a workflow system for presenting as described in claim 40, wherein the actual data comprises an actual quantity of goods/services provided by the seller in performance the project.

30

45. A process in a workflow system for presenting as described in claim 40, wherein the actual data comprises at least one measurement of at least one technical specification defining the project..

46. A process in a workflow system for presenting as described in claim 40, wherein the interface further comprises a presentation of an annotation entry interface, the annotation entry interface allowing the buyer to enter annotations to the actual data.

47. A process in a workflow system for presenting as described in claim 40, further comprising comparing a final project statement received from a seller to the actual data to determine any discrepancy between the actual data and the final project statement, and wherein the interface further comprises a presentation of the  
5 any discrepancy between the actual data and the final project statement.

48. A process in a workflow system for presenting as described in claim 47, wherein the interface further comprises a display of the final project statement.

10 49. A process in a workflow system for presenting as described in claim 47, wherein the final project statement comprises an invoice for actual costs of goods/services provided by the seller in performance of the project.

50. A process in a workflow system for comparing a first response to at  
15 least one second response, the first and at least one second responses responsive to at least one request by a buyer for at least one good/service for a project, the process comprising:

receiving the first response at the workflow system via a communication network;

20 receiving the at least one second response at the workflow system via the communication network;

comparing the first response to the at least one second response; and  
presenting the comparison to the buyer through an interface with a buyer system via the communication network.

25 51. A process in a workflow system for comparing as described in claim 50, wherein the first response and the at least one second response are alternatives to each other.

30 52. A process in a workflow system for comparing as described in claim 50, wherein the first response and the at least one second response are provided by a seller through an interface with a seller system via the communication network.



53. A process in a workflow system for comparing as described in claim 50, wherein the first response is provided by a first seller through an interface with a first seller system via the communication network, and the at least one second response is provided by at least one second seller through an interface with at least one second seller system via the communication network.

54. A process in a workflow system for comparing as described in claim 50, wherein the first and at least one second responses comprise an actual cost of the at least one good/service of the at least one request for the project.

55. A process in a workflow system for comparing as described in claim 50, wherein the first and the at least one second responses comprise an actual quantity of the at least one good/service of the at least one request for the project.

56. A process in a workflow system for comparing as described in claim 50, wherein the workflow system implements a process for generating the at least one request for the at least one good/service to be provided by at least one seller to the buyer for the project, wherein the project is defined in terms of at least one parameter, and wherein the system converts the at least one parameter into the at least one request, wherein the system communicates the at least one request to the at least one seller, and wherein the first and at least one second responses are defined in terms of the at least one parameter.

57. A process in a workflow system for comparing as described in claim 56, wherein the at least one parameter is selected from the group consisting of: physical, functional, temporal, financial, transactional, and geographical parameters.

58. A process in a workflow system for comparing as described in claim 56, wherein the step of comparing the first response to the at least one second response further comprises comparing the at least one parameter.

59. A process in a workflow system for comparing as described in claim 58, further comprising altering a value of the at least one parameter, whereby the comparison may be made between multiple values of the at least one parameter.

60. A process in a workflow system for comparing as described in claim 50, wherein the communication network is selected from the group consisting of: the Internet, an intranet, a cable network, a telephone network, a wireless network, a voice network, a frame-relay broadband network, a local area network, a wide area network, a public network, and a private network.

61. A process in a workflow system for comparing as described in claim 50, wherein the communication network operates over at least one of the transmission mediums selected from the group consisting of: telephony, wireless telephony, digital subscriber line, two-way cable, fiber optic, radio, point-to-point microwave, and satellite.

62. A process in a workflow system for comparing as described in claim 50, wherein the project further comprises one of a type selected from the group consisting of: oil and gas exploration, construction, manufacturing complex products, and providing specialized services.

63. <sup>64</sup> A workflow system for comparing a first response to at least one second response, the first and at least one second responses responsive to at least one request by a buyer for at least one good/service for a project, the workflow system comprising:

a buyer interface;  
at least one seller interface for receiving the first response and the at least one second response from at least one seller;  
a memory for storing the first response and the at least one second response;  
and  
a processor connected to the buyer interface, the at least one seller interface, and the memory,  
wherein the processor compares the first response to the at least one second response, and wherein the processor presents the comparison to the buyer via the buyer interface.

64. A workflow system for comparing as described in claim 63, wherein the first response is provided by a first seller through a first incidence of the at least one seller interface, and the at least one second response is provided by at least one second seller through a second incidence of the at least one seller interface.

5

65. A workflow system for comparing as described in claim 63, wherein the first and at least one second responses comprise an actual cost of the at least one good/service of the at least one request for the project.

10 66. A workflow system for comparing as described in claim 65, wherein the actual cost of the at least one good/service is calculated on a time and materials basis.

15 67. A workflow system for comparing as described in claim 63, wherein the first and the at least one second alternative responses comprise an actual quantity of the at least one good/service of the at least one request for the project.

20 68. A workflow system for comparing as described in claim 67, wherein the actual quantity of the at least one good/serviced is calculated on a time and materials basis.

25 69. A workflow system for comparing as described in claim 63, wherein the workflow system comprises a system implements a process for generating at least one request for the at least one good/service to be provided by at least one seller to the buyer for the project, wherein the project is defined in terms of at least one parameter, and wherein the system converts the at least one parameter into the at least one request, and wherein the system communicates the at least one request to the at least one seller.

30 70. A workflow system for comparing as described in claim 69 wherein the at least one parameter is selected from the group consisting of: physical, functional, temporal, financial, transactional, and geographical parameters.

71. A workflow system for comparing as described in claim 63 wherein at least one of the processor, the buyer interface, and the at least one seller interface is connected to a communication network, and wherein the communication network is selected from the group consisting of: the Internet, an intranet, a cable network, a telephone network, a wireless network, a voice network, a frame-relay broadband network, a local area network, a wide area network, a public network, and a private network.

72. A workflow system for comparing as described in claim 71 wherein the communication network operates over at least one of the transmission mediums selected from the group consisting of: telephony, wireless telephony, digital subscriber line, two-way cable, fiber optic, radio, point-to-point microwave, and satellite.

73. A workflow system for comparing as described in claim 63 wherein the project further comprises one of a type selected from the group consisting of: oil and gas exploration, construction, manufacturing complex products, and providing specialized services.

74. A process in a workflow system for presenting a comparison of a first response to at least one second response, the first and at least one second responses responsive to at least one request by a buyer for at least one good/service for a project, the process comprising:

receiving the first response;  
receiving the at least one second response;  
comparing the first response to the at least one second response; and  
presenting the comparison to the buyer via a buyer interface with the workflow system.

75. A process in a workflow system for presenting a comparison as described in claim 74, wherein the first response and the at least one second response are provided by a seller through a seller interface with the workflow system.

76. A process in a workflow system for presenting a comparison as described in claim 74, wherein the first response is provided by a first seller via a first incidence of a seller interface with the workflow system, and the at least one second response is provided by at least one second seller via a second incidence of the seller interface with the workflow system.

77. A process in a workflow system for presenting a comparison as described in claim 74, wherein the first and at least one second responses comprise an actual cost of the at least one good/service of the at least one request for the project.

78. A process in a workflow system for presenting a comparison as described in claim 77, wherein the actual cost of the at least one good/service is calculated on a time and materials basis.

79. A process in a workflow system for presenting a comparison as described in claim 73 wherein the first and the at least one second responses comprise an actual quantity of the at least one good/service of the at least one request for the project.

80. A process in a workflow system for presenting a comparison as described in claim 79, wherein the actual quantity of the at least one good/service is calculated on a time and materials basis.

81. A process in a workflow system for presenting a comparison as described in claim 74, wherein the workflow system implements a process for generating the at least one request for the at least one good/service to be provided by at least one seller to the buyer for the project, wherein the project is defined in terms of at least one parameter, and wherein the system converts the at least one parameter into the at least one request, and wherein the system communicates the at least one request to the at least one seller.

82. A process in a workflow system for presenting a comparison as described in claim 81, wherein the at least one parameter is selected from the group

consisting of: physical, functional, temporal, financial, transactional, and geographical parameters.

83. A process in a workflow system for presenting a comparison as  
5 described in claim 81, wherein the first and at least one second responses comprise at least one parameter of the at least one request for the project.

84. A process in a workflow system for displaying a comparison as  
described in claim 74 or 75, wherein the workflow system, the buyer interface, and  
10 each incidence of the seller interface are connected via a communication network selected from the group consisting of: the Internet, an intranet, a cable network, a telephone network, a wireless network, a voice network, a frame-relay broadband network, a local area network, a wide area network, a public network, and a private network.

85. A process in a workflow system for displaying a comparison as  
described in claim 83, wherein the communication network operates over at least one  
of the transmission mediums selected from the group consisting of: telephony,  
wireless telephony, digital subscriber line, two-way cable, fiber optic, radio, point-to-  
20 point microwave, and satellite.

86. A process in a workflow system for displaying a comparison as  
described in claim 74, wherein the project further comprises one of a type selected  
from the group consisting of: oil and gas exploration, construction, manufacturing  
25 complex products, and providing specialized services.

~~87.~~<sup>88</sup> A process for enhancing a workflow system by providing supportive  
information for a project, wherein a buyer provides at least one request for at least one  
good/service for the project, and a seller provides at least one response to the at least  
30 one request, the process comprising:

providing a request template in a buyer interface, wherein the buyer develops  
the at least one request;

inserting an information source link into the request template;

notifying the seller that the request template is available for access and review

in a seller interface;

responding to a selection of the information source link by the seller by displaying the supportive information in the seller interface.

5        ~~88~~<sup>89</sup> A process for enhancing a workflow system by providing supportive information for a project, wherein a buyer provides at least one request for at least one good/service for the project, and a seller provides at least one response to the at least one request, the process comprising:

10        providing a response template in a seller interface, wherein the seller develops the at least one response to the at least one request;

inserting an information source link into the response template;

notifying the buyer that the response template is available for access and review in a buyer interface;

15        responding to a selection of the information source link by the buyer by displaying the supportive information in the buyer interface.

20        ~~89~~<sup>90</sup> A process for enhancing a workflow system as described in claim 87 or 88, wherein the step of responding further comprises accessing the supportive information from a data repository in the workflow system.

25        ~~90~~<sup>91</sup> A process for enhancing a workflow system as described in claim 87 or 88, wherein the step of responding further comprises accessing the supportive information from a remote data repository via a communication network.

30        91. A process for enhancing a workflow system as described in claim 87, further comprising accessing the supportive information from a data repository in the buyer system via a communication network.

92. A process for enhancing a workflow system as described in claim 88, further comprising accessing the supportive information from a data repository in the seller system via a communication network.

93. ~~93~~<sup>94</sup> A process for enhancing a workflow system as described in claim 90, wherein the step of responding further comprises accessing a pointer in a reference

library upon selection of the information source link, wherein the pointer points to the supportive information in the remote data repository.

94. A process for enhancing a workflow system as described in claim 93,  
5 wherein the reference library is located within a system selected from the group  
consisting of: the workflow system, the seller system, and the buyer system.

96  
95. A process for enhancing a workflow system as described in claim 87 or  
88, wherein the workflow system comprises a system for implementing a process to  
10 generate at least one request for the at least one good/service to be provided by the  
seller to the buyer for the project, wherein the project is defined in terms of at least  
one parameter, and wherein the system converts the at least one parameter into the at  
least one request, and wherein the system communicates the at least one request to the  
seller.

97  
96. A process for enhancing a workflow system as described in claim 95,  
15 wherein the at least one parameter is selected from the group consisting of: physical,  
functional, temporal, financial, transactional, and geographical parameters.

97. A process for enhancing a workflow system as described in claim 95,  
20 wherein the project further comprises one of a type selected from the group consisting  
of: oil and gas exploration, construction, manufacturing complex products, and  
providing specialized services.

98. A process for enhancing a workflow system as described in claim 95,  
25 wherein the supportive information further defines the at least one parameter.

100  
99. A process for enhancing a workflow system as described in claim 87 or  
88, wherein the supportive information is selected from the group consisting of:  
30 industry information, buyer standards, seller standards, industry standards, buyer  
historical data, seller historical data, industry historical data, technical information,  
product information, and service information.



100. A process for enhancing a workflow system as described in claim 87,  
wherein the buyer inserts the information source link into the request template.

101. A process for enhancing a workflow system as described in claim 88,  
5 wherein the seller inserts the information source link into the response template.

<sup>103</sup>  
102. An enhanced workflow system that provides supportive information  
for a project, wherein a buyer provides at least one request for at least one  
good/service for the project, and a seller provides at least one response to the at least  
10 one request, the workflow system comprising:

a buyer interface with at least one buyer system;  
a seller interface with at least one seller system;  
a memory for storing the at least one request input by the buyer through the  
first interface; and  
15 a processor connected to the buyer interface, the seller interface, and the  
memory, wherein the processor inserts an information source link into the request;  
notifies the seller that the request is available for access and review in the second  
interface; and responds to a selection of the information source link by the seller by  
presenting the supportive information in the second interface.

<sup>104</sup>  
20 103. An enhanced workflow system that provides supportive information  
for a project, wherein a buyer provides at least one request for at least one  
good/service for the project, and a seller provides at least one response to the at least  
one request, the workflow system comprising:

25 a buyer interface with at least one buyer system;  
a seller interface with at least one seller system;  
a memory for storing the at least one response input by the seller through the  
second interface; and  
a processor connected to the buyer interface, the seller interface, and the  
30 memory, wherein the processor inserts an information source link into the response;  
notifies the buyer that the response is available for access and review in the first  
interface; and responds to a selection of the information source link by the seller by  
presenting the supportive information in the second interface.

<sup>5</sup>  
104. An enhanced workflow system as described in claim 102 or 103,  
wherein the processor further accesses the supportive information from a data  
repository in the workflow system.

<sup>6</sup>  
5 105. An enhanced workflow system as described in claim 102 or 103,  
wherein the processor further accesses the supportive information from a remote data  
repository via the communication network.

<sup>7</sup>  
10 106. An enhanced workflow system as described in claim 102, wherein the  
processor further accesses the supportive information from a data repository in the  
buyer system via the communication network.

<sup>8</sup>  
15 107. An enhanced workflow system as described in claim 103, wherein the  
processor further accesses the supportive information from a data repository in the  
seller system via a communication network.

<sup>9</sup>  
20 108. An enhanced workflow system as described in claim 105, wherein the  
processor further accesses a pointer in a reference library upon the selection of the  
information source link, wherein the pointer points to the supportive information in  
the remote data repository.

<sup>10</sup>  
25 109. An enhanced workflow system as described in claim 108, wherein the  
reference library is located within a system selected from the group consisting of: the  
workflow system, the seller system, and the buyer system.

<sup>11</sup>  
30 110. An enhanced workflow system as described in claim 102 or 103,  
wherein the workflow system comprises a system for implementing a process to  
generate at least one request for the at least one good/service to be provided by the  
seller to the buyer for the project, wherein the project is defined in terms of at least  
one parameter, and wherein the system converts the at least one parameter into the at  
least one request, and wherein the system communicates the at least one request to the  
seller.

<sup>2</sup>  
114. An enhanced workflow system as described in claim 110, wherein the at least one parameter is selected from the group consisting of: physical, functional, temporal, financial, transactional, and geographical parameters.

<sup>3</sup>  
112. An enhanced workflow system as described in claim 110, wherein the project further comprises one of a type selected from the group consisting of: oil and gas exploration, construction, manufacturing complex products, and providing specialized services.

<sup>4</sup>  
113. An enhanced workflow system as described in claim 110, wherein the supportive information further defines the at least one parameter.

<sup>5</sup>  
114. An enhanced workflow system as described in claim 102 or 103, wherein the supportive information is selected from the group consisting of: industry information, buyer standards, seller standards, industry standards, buyer historical data, seller historical data, industry historical data, technical information, product information, and service information.

<sup>6</sup>  
115. An enhanced workflow system as described in claim 102, wherein the buyer selects the information source link to insert into the request.

<sup>7</sup>  
116. An enhanced workflow system as described in claim 103, wherein the seller selects the information source link to insertion into the response.

<sup>8</sup>  
~~117~~. A process in a workflow system for displaying information supportive of a request by a buyer to a seller for at least one good/service, the process comprising:

displaying a seller interface accessible to the seller, wherein the seller interface connects the workflow system and a seller system, the interface comprising an information source link; and

in response to selection of the information source link, displaying the supportive information in the seller interface.

119

118. A process in a workflow system for displaying information supportive of a response by a seller to a request by a buyer for at least one good/service, the process comprising:

displaying a buyer interface accessible to the buyer, wherein the buyer interface connects the workflow system and a buyer system, the interface comprising an information source link; and

in response to selection of the information source link, displaying the supportive information in the buyer interface.

120

119. A process in a workflow system for displaying information as described in claim 117 or 118, further comprising accessing the supportive information from a data repository in the workflow system.

121

120. A process in a workflow system for displaying information as described in claim 117 or 118, further comprising accessing the supportive information from a remote data repository.

122

121. A process in a workflow system for displaying information as described in claim 117, further comprising accessing the supportive information from a data repository in the buyer system via a communication network.

123

122. A process in a workflow system for displaying information as described in claim 118, further comprising accessing the supportive information from a data repository in the seller system via a communication network.

124

123. A process in a workflow system for displaying information as described in claim 120, further comprising accessing a pointer in a reference library upon selection of the information source link, wherein the pointer points to the supportive information in the remote data repository.

125

124. A process in a workflow system for displaying information as described in claim 123, wherein the reference library is located within a system selected from the group consisting of: the workflow system, the seller system, and the buyer system.

1 16

125. A process in a workflow system for displaying information as described in claim 117 or 118, wherein the workflow system comprises a system for implementing a process to generate at least one request for at least one good/service to  
5 be provided by the seller to the buyer for a project, wherein the project is defined in terms of at least one parameter, and wherein the system converts the at least one parameter into the at least one request, and wherein the system communicates the at least one request to the seller.

10 126. A process in a workflow system for displaying information as described in claim 125, wherein the at least one parameter is selected from the group consisting of: physical, functional, temporal, financial, transactional, and geographical parameters.

15 127. A process in a workflow system for displaying information as described in claim 125, wherein the project further comprises one of a type selected from the group consisting of: oil and gas exploration, construction, manufacturing complex products, and providing specialized services.

20 128. A process in a workflow system for displaying information as described in claim 125, wherein the supportive information further defines the at least one parameter.

25 129. A process in a workflow system for displaying information as described in claim 117 or 118, wherein the supportive information is selected from the group consisting of: industry information, buyer standards, seller standards, industry standards, buyer historical data, seller historical data, industry historical data, technical information, product information, and service information.